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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending September 24, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Good Week for Field Work: Farmers were jumping for joy last week as the weather was promising for field work. Although there were a few showers last week that didn't stop farmers from getting out in the fields and planting some fall seeds. The soybean leaves were dropping and turning colors, which indicates harvest isn't far behind. The apple harvests began coming to a close last week. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included cutting silage, spreading manure, planting small grains and cover crops, making hay, preparing for fall seedings, and harvesting apples, high moisture corn, dry shelled corn, potatoes, pumpkins and tobacco.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 24, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	5	71	24

Crops: Ninety-two percent of the corn has entered the dent stage, compared to 94 percent last year and 85 percent for the 5-year average. This number is seven percentage points ahead of the 5-year average of 78 percent and 2 points behind last year at this time. Last week 68 percent of the corn crop was mature, which is far ahead of the five year average by 19 percentage points. Currently, 70 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. This is 3 percent ahead of last week at this time. Corn silage harvesting shot up last week from 67 percent to 81 percent, which is a difference of 14 percentage points. The nice weather seems to have helped the soybean conditions last week, with 72 percent of the crop in good to excellent condition. Potato harvesting was at 48 percent last week, which is 37 percentage points behind last year at this time and 17 percentage points behind the five year average. The slow progress being made in potato harvests can be contributed to the weather received in the past few weeks. Tobacco harvesting continued last week at 93 percent harvested. Last week the alfalfa fourth cutting, at 63 percent, was ahead of the 5-year average which is 55 percent. Timothy/Clover second cutting continued to progress at a steady pace last week at 95 percent. The quality of hay made last week was reported as 1 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 16 percent excellent.

Apple harvesting continues to progress at a nice pace at 65 percent. This is 20 percent higher than the 5-year average. The recent rain seemed to aid in the overall quality of the apples harvested last week. The continued moisture as allowed apple conditions to remain constant, with 15 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 18 percent excellent.

Livestock: Pastures were able to dry up from the previous week while still remaining green. The pastures were given just enough time to recuperate from the heavy rains of the previous week. Stored feed was still used for the livestock, as pastures have had very little productivity so far. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 6 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 15 percent excellent.

U.S. as of September 19, 2006: Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the Nation's mid-section, including the western Corn Belt and most of the Great Plains, allowing rapid development and maturation of summer crops. Temperatures were mostly below normal along the Atlantic Coast, eastern Corn Belt, and Southeast. Moderate to heavy precipitation from Iowa across the central Corn Belt to the middle Atlantic Coast states limited fieldwork to 3 or 4 days. Conditions were mostly dry across the Great Plains, with the exception of a 2-day outbreak of severe weather in the central and northern Great Plains, which also affected the western Corn Belt. This system brought high winds, tornadoes, and hail to these areas.

Corn: Ninety-six percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dent stage, 1 percentage point ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Denting was well ahead of normal in the northern Corn Belt, exceeding the 5-year average pace by 21 points in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Maturation advanced to 52 percent, compared with 54 percent last year and 49 percent for the normal. Rapid progress was reported in adjacent areas of the Corn Belt, where temperatures averaged above normal. Harvest, at 9 percent complete, was 1 point behind last year and the 5-year average. Hindered by rainfall, harvest was behind normal across most of the Corn Belt.

Soybeans: Leaves were dropping on 48 percent of the acreage, 12 points behind last year and 1 point behind normal. Though well ahead of normal in the Mississippi Delta, progress trailed behind normal in most other areas, particularly in the eastern Corn Belt, where Indiana's was 24 points behind the 5-year average. Growers had harvested 6 percent of their acreage, 1 point behind last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Harvest was just getting underway in the Corn Belt but had not yet begun across the Ohio River Valley. Winter Wheat: Planting advanced to 19 percent complete, compared with 24 percent last year and 23 percent for the 5-year average. Planting was behind normal in most States, hampered by soggy field conditions in some areas and delayed by lack of soil moisture elsewhere.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 24, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 24, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	83	47	63	0	3.67	5	21.99	0.16	80	2,637	231	4,278
Franklin	83	43	61	1	0.93	5	32.87	8.80	87	2,495	260	4,177
Meadville	79	43	59	0	1.97	5	27.45	3.46	82	2,418	369	4,073
Mercer	82	45	60	0	1.10	4	33.14	10.20	82	2,370	156	4,040
Springboro	80	42	59	-3	2.10	5	30.82	9.54	88	2,222	-149	3,840
Warren	81	41	60	1	0.65	4	33.89	9.74	86	2,287	122	3,934
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	31	56	2	0.58	6	28.09	3.94	91	1,827	256	3,402
Emporium	82	40	60	4	0.38	4	32.29	8.37	86	2,329	550	4,013
Kane	78	33	56	2	0.38	4	28.76	4.20	78	1,707	169	3,283
Laporte	74	38	57	-4	0.24	4	32.43	10.20	89	1,990	-225	3,613
Lock Haven	82	40	61	1	0.16	2	27.28	5.38	70	2,664	312	4,379
Port Allegany	79	38	57	2	0.40	4	26.79	3.95	80	1,976	244	3,585
Renovo	83	42	62	2	0.21	3	28.47	6.57	84	2,461	109	4,169
Ridgway	79	36	57	1	0.23	4	29.38	5.46	81	2,019	240	3,652
Stevenson Dam	82	44	62	6	0.20	4	27.11	3.19	79	2,517	738	4,219
Towanda	79	40	60	1	0.11	2	23.20	4.70	75	2,439	208	4,108
Wellsboro	76	36	55	-1	0.22	5	23.30	4.73	78	1,885	212	3,491
Williamsport	81	40	63	2	0.09	3	26.93	5.42	71	2,878	285	4,593
Northeast												
Hawley	80	38	58	1	0.23	3	33.81	12.80	68	2,164	250	3,796
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	41	61	1	0.11	2	25.66	5.26	69	2,644	185	4,337
Susquehanna	80	39	59	3	0.26	3	32.74	10.35	82	2,262	447	3,909
West Central												
Butler	82	43	60	-1	0.34	4	24.63	1.87	80	2,448	130	4,141
New Castle	85	43	63	2	0.74	3	28.17	7.37	78	2,722	402	4,426
Slippery Rock	83	45	62	3	1.06	4	31.00	8.82	87	2,555	470	4,248
Central												
Altoona/Blair	80	37	62	2	0.18	5	19.88	0.10	75	2,565	101	4,272
DuBois	77	38	60	1	0.17	3	26.13	3.25	92	2,229	96	3,886
Lewistown	83	43	63	0	0.05	3	25.82	4.58	69	2,832	126	4,555
Middletown	83	46	66	2	0.20	2	25.17	4.06	59	3,323	270	5,063
Prince Gallitzi	81	34	58	-1	0.15	3	24.45	-1.06	72	2,159	174	3,812
Selinsgrove	81	40	61	0	0.17	3	30.54	8.48	73	2,749	219	4,464
State College	80	42	61	0	0.03	2	20.63	0.64	69	2,699	268	4,419
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	83	41	63	0	0.22	5	29.69	6.56	74	2,986	196	4,710
Lehighton	75	43	60	-3	0.16	2	30.47	7.51	81	2,656	-34	4,361
Matamoras	81	40	61	2	0.14	3	28.43	5.20	76	2,372	-60	4,037
Mt_Pocono	76	37	58	4	0.22	5	36.68	11.97	89	2,147	485	3,784
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	46	63	2	0.31	3	23.05	1.97	75	2,882	402	4,611
Derry	83	39	60	-1	0.86	4	28.28	6.29	71	2,495	153	4,190
Myersdale	80	36	57	-5	0.37	2	23.88	-0.08	83	1,913	-397	3,534
Mount Pleasant	82	42	60	2	0.44	3	25.57	0.55	75	2,445	350	4,137
Pittsburgh Intl	82	44	62	-1	0.24	3	18.51	-1.33	68	2,787	191	4,504
Connellsville	85	44	63	2	0.41	3	22.21	-1.16	90	2,849	205	4,565
Waynesburg	84	39	61	-1	0.61	3	19.84	-1.83	68	2,585	178	4,294
South Central												
Biglerville	83	42	63	-3	0.05	3	25.06	5.17	70	3,027	44	4,764
Everett	78	37	58	-4	0.24	3	19.94	0.72	78	2,100	-358	3,805
Hanover	83	42	63	-2	0.02	2	22.61	2.72	69	2,990	7	4,721
Harrisburg_AP	83	45	66	2	0.36	2	24.70	3.59	66	3,252	192	4,992
South Mountain	78	39	59	-2	0.19	3	28.81	9.03	74	2,408	-49	4,104
York	84	39	64	-1	0.19	4	18.17	-3.12	64	2,985	14	4,710
Southeast												
Green Lane	82	44	64	2	0.30	2	33.36	10.95	69	3,054	384	4,782
Hamburg	83	44	63	3	0.23	2	29.85	4.09	78	3,080	643	4,806
West_Chester	84	41	63	-3	0.00	0	28.18	3.85	57	2,942	-24	4,664
Lancaster	80	43	64	2	0.03	3	28.49	5.95	75	3,132	310	4,866
Neshaminy Falls	83	43	63	0	0.16	1	29.49	3.54	62	2,915	127	4,645
New Holland	83	44	65	2	0.00	0	23.62	1.08	65	3,161	339	4,891
Philadelphia	82	50	68	2	0.03	1	27.42	5.42	56	3,646	405	5,403
Philadelphia NE	84	47	68	2	0.03	1	28.91	6.91	61	3,578	337	5,330
Reading	83	44	65	3	0.18	3	26.97	2.88	65	3,186	413	4,917
Valley Forge Na	85	41	64	-2	0.10	2	33.92	10.45	71	3,122	-15	4,854
Willow Grove	82	46	66	3	0.00	0	23.36	-2.59	53	3,244	456	4,986

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County received some more rainfall this past week. No heavy downpours so the rain was beneficial to the soil and crops. Daytime temperatures were in the 60's and low 70's some days. Nighttime temperatures a few nights got down to 45 degrees.

Corn silage harvest is almost complete for the county. Corn is starting to be shelled for grain with moisture levels in the 20's and lower in some areas of the county. Corn yields will be lower this year due to the drought in July/August. Early soybeans leaves are turning colors indicating harvest will not be far away. Late soybeans are still green. Barley and wheat are being planted in the county with more to be seeded once some fall crops are harvested.

Apples continue to be harvested with a good crop being reported. Peach harvest is complete for the county. Pumpkins if irrigated are starting to be harvested. Other non-irrigated pumpkins pretty much dried up from July/August drought in the county.

Overall Adams County's crops are looking ok for an average crop.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Weather typical of late summer. Light showers and foggy mornings made for poor hay making. Corn for high moisture is being harvested with yields not as high as expected. Soybeans are a disappointment so far. Earlier plantings of corn and soybeans doing better with yields near normal. Apple harvest is progressing with yields being about normal. The September showers have helped to increase the final size.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Another cool week. Silage and potato harvesting were the main activities this week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Rain again this week slowed silage harvest; however, most farmers were able to get into the fields and make good progress. Pasture conditions have increased with the cool wet weather but the mud is becoming a problem in laneways and feeding areas.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - This was a good week for field work. 1/8 inch of rainfall for the week.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The potato crop could be in big trouble with all the rain. The month so far has been every wet, the effect on crops is showing. Farmers unable to work fields for harvesting of crops let alone planting of fall crops. The 4 county area has received around 12 inches of precipitation so far for the month.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - There was a lot of moisture last week. Also some dry shelled corn is being harvested. Tobacco harvest will finish this week. Soybeans are dropping leaves and will soon be ready for harvest.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) Last week was a great week for harvesting crops. There was a little rain here and there, but not enough to hamper progress. Farmers got a long way towards finishing silage, tobacco, making hay, spreading manure, planting small grain and cover crops.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - A fairly dry week allowed farmers to get back into the fields this week. Corn harvest began with reports of good yields and moistures in the mid 20's. Soybeans are yellowing and dropping leaves some are getting close to harvest. Still some late corn silage to chop. Dry weather forecasted has farmers planning to cut some late hay.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - A cooler week with some light rain. Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Soybeans are yellowing and beginning leaf drop. There's still some nice later hay cutting to be made given the right weather.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 24, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	47	39	34
Corn, dent	92	94	85
Corn, mature	68	70	49
Corn, harvested	18	23	17
Corn silage, harvested	81	86	69
Barley, planted	33	55	35
Barley, emerged	11	33	15
Wheat, planted	20	18	14
Tobacco, harvested	93	95	96
Potatoes, harvested	48	85	65
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	63	71	55
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	95	95	92
Apples, harvested	65	40	45
Grapes, harvested	9	24	25

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 24, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	5	23	53	17
Soybeans	0	3	25	54	18
Quality of hay made	0	1	18	65	16
Pasture	6	14	25	40	15
Apples	0	0	15	67	18

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